



SECOND SHARING

SEPTEMBER 2026

Hebrews 10:23-25 (The Common English Bible—CEB)

Let's hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, because the one who made the promises is reliable. And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.

Our 2026—2027 Program Year Theme: *People of the Promise*

September's arrival brings with it a return to a more familiar schedule. Which also means the slower pace of summer is giving way to more activity.

No matter what stage of life you are in, your calendar probably fills up quickly as you put everything into it: volunteer service times, sporting events, music or dance recitals, practices of all sorts, book club, coffee with friends, medical appointments. The list is endless.

If you're anything like me, you sometimes discover you have no room for something you really wanted to do. Like exercise. Or connecting with a friend. It can even happen, and often does, to our spiritual lives. Without a disciplined commitment to practice our faith, we can easily fall into the trap of thinking we have no time to attend worship, or take part in a study group, or touch base with someone you imagine is lonely. How do we make time for the life that truly is life?

This is not a new challenge for people of faith. The worshiping community who received the Letter to the Hebrews, just a few years after Jesus, we're already feeling the pressure of how to make their faith a priority in a busy world. And it's worse now.

But here's some good news. We can help one another grow in our faith and deepen our commitment. To help us do that, we'll focus on the above passage from Hebrews throughout this new 2026-2027 program year at Second. Centered in the promises of God, we will remember the promises we have made, and we will recommit to the promises we make to one another.

We'll start the program year with a three-sermon series called *The Promises We Make*:

September 13—*To Hold God's Promises*

September 20—*To Strive Side by Side*

September 27—*To Spark Love and Good Deeds*

Because we belong to God and to one another, God has made us *people of the promise*. I look forward to the ways we will continue to "spark love and good deeds" in one another as we hold onto the promises of God which hold us.

In gratitude,

Pastor John

Dedicated to Jesus Christ, we are committed to making a difference by caring for one another, growing in our ministries, and reaching beyond ourselves.



Beginning September 13th Sunday Morning Worship

8:30 am - Communion each week

9:30 am - Sunday School Hour

11:00 am - Communion First Sunday/Livestream

Youth and Children Sunday School Kick-Off

All children, youth, and their parents are invited to join us for our annual Sunday School kick-off on **September 13th at 9:40 am in Fellowship Hall!** We will have breakfast goodies (fruit, muffins, water and juice), parents can turn in the annual Registration and Release forms and youth and children can meet their teachers! Come join us as we begin a new year of learning and growing in faith together as followers of Jesus!



Adult Pathways

Bible Explorers (Room 202 - 2nd Floor) - Interested in studying the Bible with others searching for more depth in interpreting the scriptures? The Bible Explorers class offers that each week during the Sunday school hour. Using the on-line Bible Project, we review short videos that prompt conversation about the Bible that leads to a crucial question for class discussion: What wisdom can I find in the Biblical stories that is applicable to my daily life? This year, we'll be studying the Ten Commandments, taking an in-depth look who Jesus was and several of the Epistles. Join us and dive deeper into theological concepts and rediscover the Bible as it speaks to you today! Contact Shawn Caudill (tscaud1@uky.edu) for more information.

Women's Sunday Gathering & Study (Room 205 - 2nd Floor) - All ladies are welcome to join us as we meet both in-person and online. This fall, they will be studying the book *Prayer in the Night* by Tish Harrison Warren. For more information, contact Catherine Hunt (chowehunt@gmail.com).

Forum Program: Forum Room (1st Floor Hallway) - September Forum programs will relate to the exhibit of **1960's Civil Rights Movement** banners that Second is hosting in the Fellowship Hall. Besides the banners on loan from the Presbyterian Historical Society, the Archives Committee is also designing posters that highlight the role of Second and Lexington in the Civil Rights movement. Relevant childrens books will also be available. All three speakers are members of Second.

- **September 13 - Covering the Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement** (Tom Eblen)
Tom is a retired journalist and writer based in Lexington. He was the Lexington Herald-Leader managing editor and metro/state columnist and before that reporter and editor for the Associated Press and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Through December he is representing District 3 of LFUCG.
- **September 20 - Presbyterians in Nigeria** (Ada Kalu)
Ada is Assistant Professor of Political Science at UK. She teaches classes and does research in comparative politics and political economy. Her current research highlights the importance of historical and colonial legacies on long-term state development.
- **September 27 - Presbyterians in Malawi** (Robert Chirwa)
Robert is Professor of Computer Science and Mathematics at Bluegrass Community and Technical College. He is passionate about learning the mathematical, engineering and analytical foundations of community and love to build new gadgets and program them. He was a Fulbright Scholar in South Africa in 2023-2024.

Member News & More

Congratulations To . .

- **Tom Barker and Leigh DeLair** who were married on August 28th.

We Extend Our Love and Sympathy To . .

- **Nellie Little** who passed away on August 6th.
- **Cindy and Mark Pennington** on the death of Cindy's brother, J. Raker, on August 10th.
- **Carol Morgan** on the death of her sister, Sally Bradford, on August 11th.
- **Tom and Stephanie Gilbert** and family on the death of Tom's mother, Geraldine, in Virginia.
- **Cissy Leatherman** and family on the death of her husband, Kenny, on August 20th.
- **Jennie and Doug Boyd** and family on the death of Jennie's mother, Edith Bare, on August 25th.

September Birthdays

2. Emily Pike
3. Lucy Rogers, Abby Rogers
4. Fredda Moody, Beverly Stockwell
6. Cary Barr
8. Tom Lillich, Mark Dildilian, Dave Davidowski, Sean Leslie
9. Keith Williams
11. Julia Leopold, Jo Anne Haga
12. Jane Meenach, Phillip Granacher
14. Anne Keating, Lauren Gilbert, Anne Bolton, Kate Marie Mattmiller, Davis DesCognets
15. Larry Deener, Jordan Yeiser
16. David Leachman, Sarah Sandberg, Ann Pedersen, Melinda Reed
17. Laura Ladd, Laurel Kratt
18. Joe Bryant, Rob Edwards, Andrew Pedersen
19. Mike Leemhuis, Faith Shore, Banks Wilkinson, Jim Leake
21. Randy Powell
22. Ronnie DeAeth, Rachel McGuffey, Tom Musgrave, Lindsay Costich
23. Kathy Blomquist
24. Jenna Coy
25. Bob Singleton, Rich Mains
26. Jack Phillips
27. Robert Chirwa, Stuart Hartley, Cathy Carpenter
29. Ben Dycus
30. Sandy Elliott, David Freibert, Sally Scherer, Mary Beth Clarke



For The Health Of It

Guard what has been entrusted to your care.
1 Timothy 6:20



In considering child safety and injury prevention, all areas are a family commitment. Unshakable, unbreakable rules can **keep your children out of harms way**:

- Bike helmets are to be worn every ride-adults and children alike. All children should know the rules of the road and which side to ride on
- Children don't go swimming without adult supervision
- All children ride in a car seat that is age and size appropriate in the safest part of the car-the back seat. Seatbelts for everyone
- Never leave a child alone in a car, not even for a minute In the warm months a car heats up to dangerous levels very quickly
- Crossing the street should be at the pedestrian crossing with eyes up and devices down
- All medication should be up and out of sight from children. If there is a gun in the home, it should be stored safely and locked
- Children should always have water with them to rehydrate during sports and activities
- Families should plan together what is to be done in emergency situations. Exit plans, where to meet up, how to call 911
- Cleaning products, detergent pods are stored up and away from children

For many more safety tips explore the resources at SafeKids Fayette County.

Jackie Graves, Parish Nurse

Back to School Supplies for Westminster Village Update

On behalf of ALL the children at Westminster Village from PreK to college age who benefitted from the bountiful school supplies you donated and the very appreciative parents of each of those students, **thank you!** Backpacks were filled with the lists provided by the respective schools of the students and teachers wish lists were accommodated as well; here's wishing for a successful and safe school year for each of these students!



After an incredible kick-off event on August 23rd, the youth are “officially” off to a great start and certainly hopeful about all that lies ahead. We were especially excited to meet our upcoming 6th graders and hope to see **ALL Middle and High School youth at our upcoming events!** Contact Jenna Coy, (jennac@2preslex.org) Director of Children and Youth Ministries, with questions.

- **Alight Children’s Fellowship** - We are excited to continue our Sunday Fellowship Group for **4th and 5th graders!** We will gather the below Sundays from **12:00-1:30 p.m.**, for recreation, mission projects, and fun ways of exploring our faith as we build friendships and learn how to follow Jesus and live out our faith. Invite a friend!

September 27 * January 31 * April 18
November 15 * March 21

- **Middle School Youth Fellowship** - All **6th - 8th graders** will meet the below Sundays from **12:00-2:00 p.m.** We play games, do team building activities, mission projects, and learn about different people in the bible. Lunch will be provided and invite a friend!

September 13 * January 10
November 1 * March 14

- **High School Youth Fellowship** - All **9th - 12th graders** will meet the below Sundays from **12:00-2:00 p.m.** We play games, do team building activities, mission projects, and learn about different people in the bible. Lunch will be provided and invite a friend!

September 20 * November 22
January 24 * March 7

- **Downtown Youth Group (DYG)** is an ecumenical collaboration between five congregations: Central Christian, Christ Church Cathedral, Faith Lutheran, First Presbyterian and Second Presbyterian. DYG is proud to be a space where all are welcome! We meet from **5:00-7:00 p.m.** Below is the schedule for 2026:

September 27 (Christ Church)
October 18 (Second Host)
November 15 (Central Christian)
December 20 (FPC Christmas Party)



Communion Class

We invite all children **age 3rd grade and above** to our Communion Class on **Wednesday, September 16th from 6:00-7:15 p.m.**, to learn about communion and then participate in taking communion with one another. On Communion Sundays, a WOW volunteer will bring the children back to the sanctuary to take part in communion during worship. Email Jenna Coy to sign up (jennac@2preslex.org).

Water Pourers Needed

We are looking for **children and youth** to volunteer to **pour the water into the baptismal font** on Sunday mornings at **8:30 and 11:00 a.m., worship.** Participants will carry the water pitcher in from the back of the sanctuary, up the steps to the chancel, and pour the water into the font. In general, we are looking for one person each week. Siblings can carry the water together if they wish, or really young children could choose to walk in with their parent or grandparent.

Scan the QR code to sign up.



Opportunities to Serve

Below are various opportunities where we could use your gifts of time and talent! **Scan the QR code below and visit our LinkTree to sign up.** Please contact the church office with questions (859-254-7768)

Host Coffee/Donuts

- We need you (or your family) to host between services on Sundays **beginning September 20th**. Donuts are delivered to the church on Sunday mornings...all we need is your smile!

Provide a Meal for Alight

- We are looking for members of our congregation to provide lunch after the 11am worship service for our 4th & 5th graders. We ask that the food be delivered no later than 12:30 so you can also drop it off before the 11am service in the Youth room kitchenette. More in-dept directions, allergies and estimated number of kids you will be providing for will be sent to you upon signing up.

Provide a Meal for Youth Fellowship

- We are looking for members of our congregation to provide lunch after the 11am worship service for our Youth Fellowship. We ask that the food be delivered no later than 12:30 so you can also drop it off before the 11am service in the Youth room kitchenette. More in-dept directions, allergies and estimated number of kids you will be providing for will be sent to you upon signing up.



CONNECT WITH OTHERS

- **Coffee & Conversation** - Do you need any of these things? A chance to connect with others. A safe place to talk about your faith or your fears—or even the mundane thing of your life. If so, join Pastor John and unknown others in the congregation **each Monday morning from 9:30-10:30 am (or so) in the Gathering Place**. Hope to see you there! (*Note: We will not meet on Labor Day, September 7th*).
- **Monday Beth Wachs Circle** - All **Presbyterian Women of the church** are welcome to join us this fall for a light snack followed by the lesson beginning **September 14th at 1:00 pm (Forum Room)**. The study this year is *Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians* “*United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other*”. Contact Sandra Harrison (lsharr64@gmail.com) with questions or to purchase a study book.

Presbyterian Women's Annual Fall Gathering will be held **Saturday, September 26th** at Camp Burnamwood beginning at 9:30 a.m. All women are invited to come and make new friends! Join us for lunch and hear guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Lisa Culpepper, speak about *Working Together for Jesus: Church Mission Partnerships*. Contact Sandra Harrison ASAP to register and reserve your spot on the bus.

- **Women's Saturday Book Discussion** - Women's Saturday discussion group meet **each Saturday at 9:00 a.m., in the Forum Room**. Contact Amy Palmer (859-825-8703) for details.
- **Men's Book Study** - The Men's Book Study group has been meeting weekly for over 25 years. The format is an open discussion of a book, including theological scholars, historians and other authorities on religious topics and experiences. Open forum discussion is welcome and we provide everyone with respect appreciation of differences and commonalities. **We meet virtually via Zoom on Wednesday morning from 6:30-7:30 a.m.** Contact Shawn Caudill for zoom link (859-608-6662 or timothy.caudill@uky.edu).

Music Ministry



Covenant Choir: Rehearsals have resumed for the Covenant Choir which sings at the 11:00 service. Rehearsals are on **Thursday evenings, 7:15-8:30 p.m.**, in the Chapel (top floor). This is our Fall Recruiting Season. High school and post-high school singers are welcome to join our singing community. If you have any questions before joining us, contact Gary L. Anderson, Director of Music (ganderson@transy.edu or 859-317-3353).

Carillon Handbell Choir: Carillon Handbells are looking for new members! Whether you've been ringing for years or have never picked up a bell before, we would love for you to join us. **No previous experience is required—just a willingness to learn and have fun!** Our regular rehearsals will be held on Wednesday evenings from **5:30–7:00 pm**, beginning **September 9th**. If you've ever been curious about handbells, this is the perfect time to give them a try. For more information, contact Julianna Nitz, Carillon Handbell Director (julianna.nitz@gmail.com).

Children's Music: We are excited for a new season of children's music. Led by director, Abigail Royal, children experience God through singing and the use of instruments each week in WOW (during the 11:00 service).

This fall our children will share their music in worship during the 11:00 service on October 18th. **Our Christmas Pageant will be on December 20th at the 11:00 service.** Look for more information to come!

Mission News

Justice Ministry

.....and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

As we begin our 24th year doing the sacred work God expects of us, 2nd's Justice Ministry Team invites our church family and friends to our Fall Festival Justice Table, Gethering Place on **Sunday, September 13th**. Come and learn more about our upcoming House Meetings; how our sacred conversations help strengthen relationships within our church family. You will also have an opportunity to share your values, what community problem(s) affects you or someone you love and how justice ministry is rooted in the scriptures; one being Micah 6:8. The stories/concerns we share are essential with identifying the 'new' most urgent problem BUILD will research and take to Action next April. Justice is possible when we serve together with our BUILD community for the common good of ALL our neighbors in Lexington. Shawn Caudill and Judy Maxson will have our Sept-mid Oct. House Meeting dates available for sign-ups Sept. 13th. We will also be calling to personally invite you, your family and friends.

CROP Hunger Walk

For the 23rd consecutive year, 2nd church will be hosting the Greater Lexington CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Hunger Walk, **Sunday, October 11th from 3:00-5:00 pm.**



Crank & Boom committed once again to sponsor our WALK with their generous community program! **'Pints for a Purpose' Campaign is ONLY between Sept. 1st-15th.** Our WALK will receive \$4 per pint: go to crankandboom.com 'Pints for a Purpose' to PRE-ORDER during these two weeks only! Pick up at Clays Mill Store anytime between September 20th-30th.

Our Team is 'up and ready' to register and donate (crophungerwalk.org/lexingtonky). Stop by the CROP WALK Table on Sept. 27th or contact Judy Maxson (jke659@gmail.com) with questions or to volunteer!

Calendar

Tuesday, September 1

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (CMR)
6:00 p.m. BUILD Meeting (FH)
7:15 p.m. Chamber Chorale Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 2

6:30 a.m. Men's Book Study (Zoom)

Thursday, September 3

7:15 p.m. Covenant Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, September 5

9:00 a.m. Saturday Book Group (Forum)

Sunday, September 6

9:30 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, September 7 (Labor Day)

Office Closed

Tuesday, September 8

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (CMR)
5:30 p.m. Needlepoint Group (Forum)
7:15 p.m. Chamber Chorale Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 9

6:30 a.m. Men's Book Study (Zoom)
5:30 p.m. Carillon Handbell Rehearsal

Thursday, September 10

7:15 p.m. Covenant Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, September 12

9:00 a.m. Saturday Book Group (Forum Room)

Sunday, September 13 (Return to 2 Services)

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:40 a.m. SS Kick-Off (FH)
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Exhibit Open House (see below)
12:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting
12:00 p.m. Middle School Fellowship

Monday, September 14

9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation
1:00 p.m. Beth Wach Circle (Forum)
6:00 p.m. Mission Committee (Room 202)

Tuesday, September 15

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (CMR)
1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
5:30 p.m. Finance Committee (202)
6:30 p.m. Trustees (202)
7:15 p.m. Chamber Chorale Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 16

6:30 a.m. Men's Book Study (Zoom)
5:30 p.m. Carillon Handbell Rehearsal
6:00 p.m. Communion Class

Thursday, September 17

7:15 p.m. Covenant Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, September 19

9:00 a.m. Saturday Book Group (Forum Room)

Sunday, September 20

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:40 a.m. Confirmation Meeting
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Session (Forum)
12:00 p.m. High School Fellowship

Monday, September 21

9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation

Tuesday, September 22

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (CMR)
7:15 p.m. Chamber Chorale Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 23

6:30 a.m. Men's Book Study (Zoom)
12:00 p.m. Backpack Buddies
5:30 p.m. Carillon Handbell Rehearsal

Thursday, September 24

7:15 p.m. Covenant Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, September 26

9:00 a.m. Saturday Book Group (Forum Room)

Sunday, September 27

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Alight
5:00 p.m. DYG (Christ Church)

Monday, September 28

9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation

Tuesday, September 29

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (CMR)
7:15 p.m. Chamber Chorale Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 30

6:30 a.m. Men's Book Study (Zoom)
1:30 p.m. OLLI Class (Forum)
5:30 p.m. Carillon Handbell Rehearsal

"Faith and Justice in the 1960s," an exhibit about the role of churches in the civil rights movement of the 1960s, will be on display in the Forum Room throughout the month of September. It includes banners from the Presbyterian Historical Society showing national press coverage, as well as local information from the Lexington Herald-Leader and from the church's archives. Books for children will be shared to help expand their understanding of faith and justice. Angene Wilson, Phil Maxson, Tom Eblen, Scott Walz, Linda Levstik, Ruth Webb Kelly and Robert Chirwa assembled the display.

On Sunday, September 13 from 12:00-3:00 p.m., the public is invited to an open house to view the exhibit, and all ages are welcome. Come and bring a friend.

★ **HAPPY** ★
LABOR DAY

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Second Presbyterian Church
460 E. Main Street
Lexington, KY 40507

Church Phone: 859.254.7768
Website: www.2preslex.org
E-Mail: office@2preslex.org

We are happy to share the date and time for our **Habitat for Humanity House Dedication!**

Charysia, and her three daughters, are excited to move in and encourage all to come and celebrate with them on **Thursday, September 17th at 5:30 p.m., at 785 Harrison Trace**. The house is the first one on the left as you turn down the street. We expect sufficient street parking, though carpooling is always encouraged! *You'll also love walking into the backyard to meet their neighbors across the fence (who are all thoroughbreds!).*



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE
HOME DEDICATION